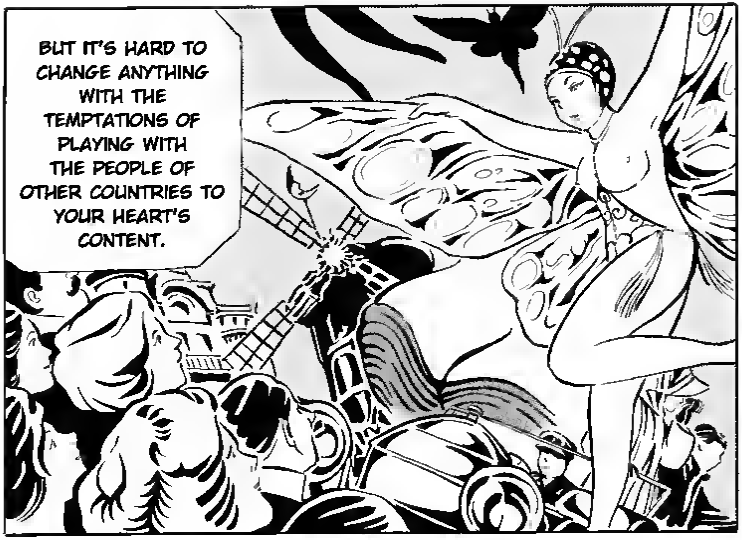
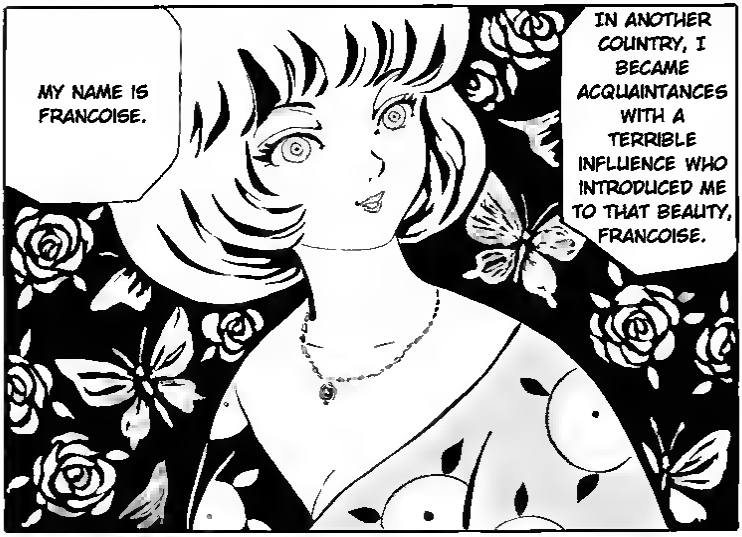
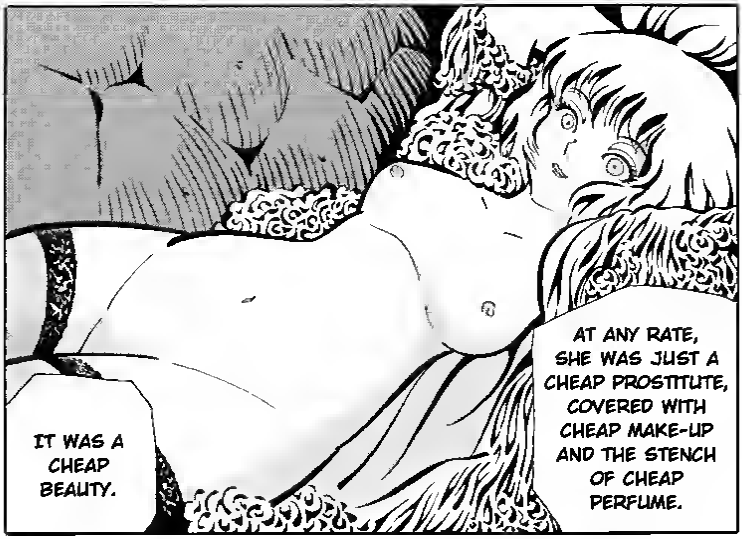
Françoise

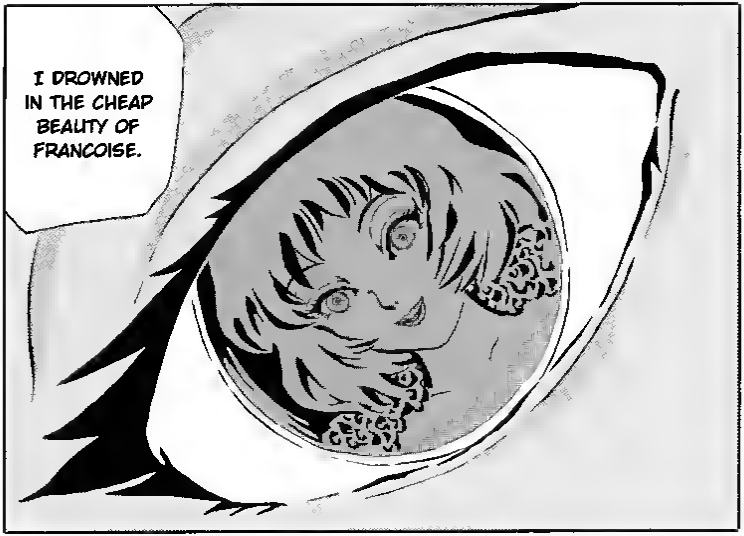
I FOOLED MY FATHER INTO THINKING I HAD ENROLLED INTO THE FLOWER ACADEMY.
BUT LIFE IS ALL PLAY, NOT SCHOOL.
I'M THE ONE WHO KNOWS BEST THAT MY WORKS ARE TOTALLY WITHOUT VALUE, WITH NO GENIUS TO THEM.

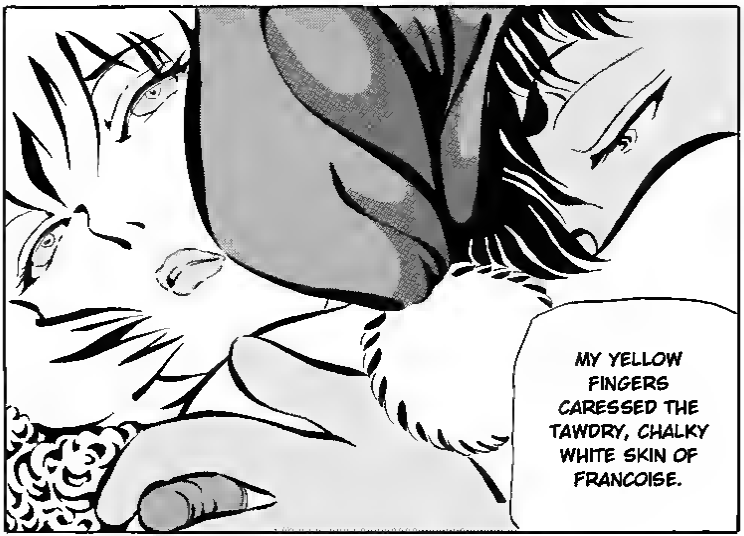

BUT IT'S HARD TO CHANGE ANYTHING WITH THE TEMPTATIONS OF PLAYING WITH THE PEOPLE OF OTHER COUNTRIES TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT.

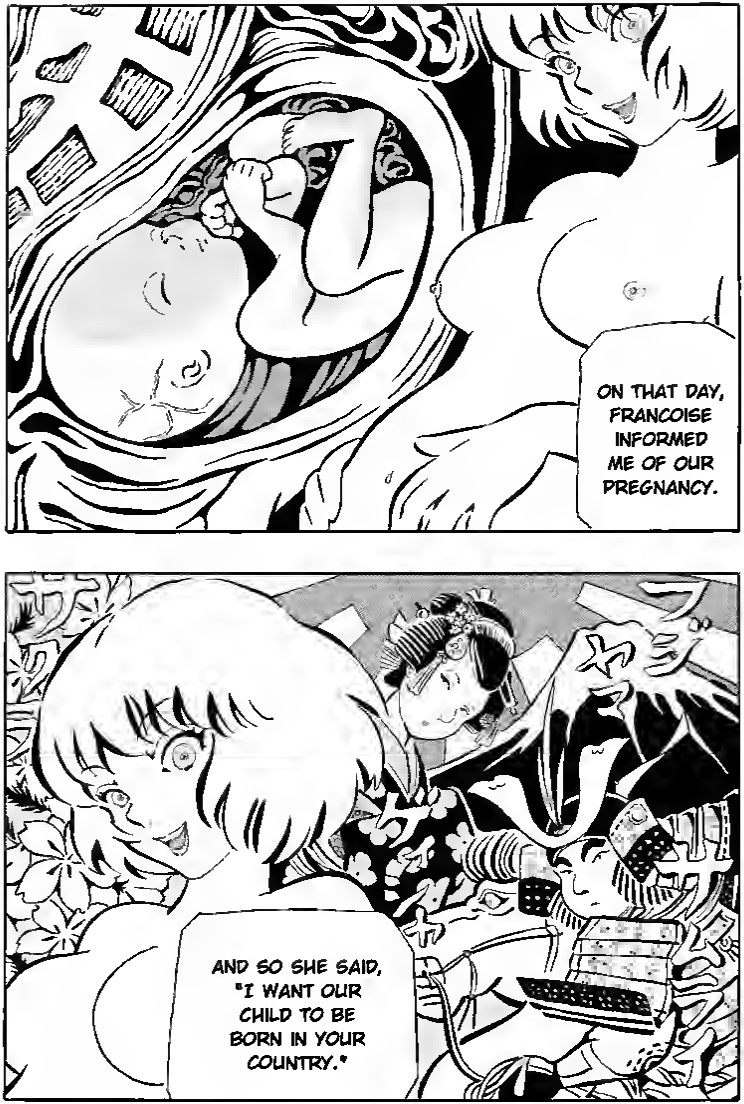

MY NAME IS FRANCOISE.
IN ANOTHER COUNTRY, I BECAME ACQUAINTANCES WITH A TERRIBLE INFLUENCE WHO INTRODUCED ME TO THAT BEAUTY, FRANCOISE.

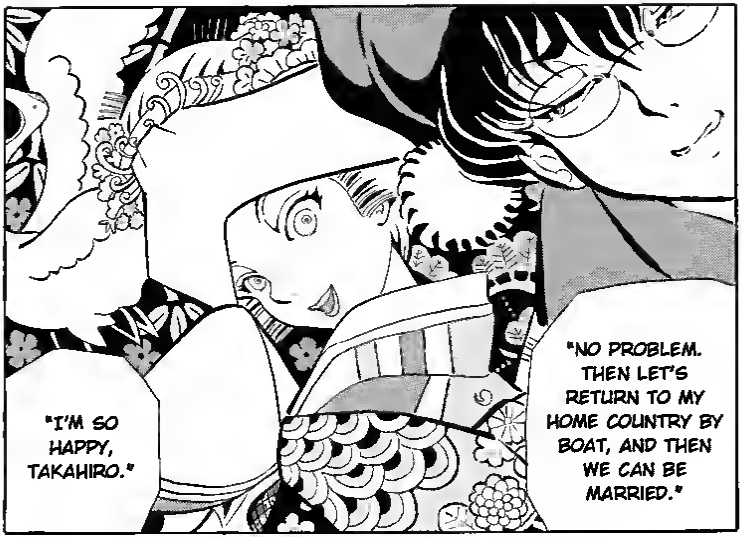

IT WAS A CHEAP BEAUTY.
AT ANY RATE, SHE WAS JUST A CHEAP PROSTITUTE, COVERED WITH CHEAP MAKE-UP AND THE STENCH OF CHEAP PERFUME.

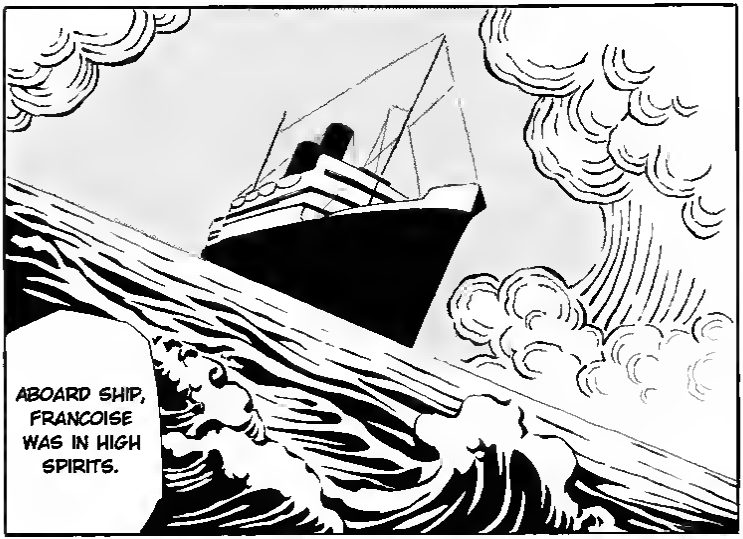
MY NAME IS TAKAHIRO.


I DROWNED IN THE CHEAP BEAUTY OF FRANCOISE.

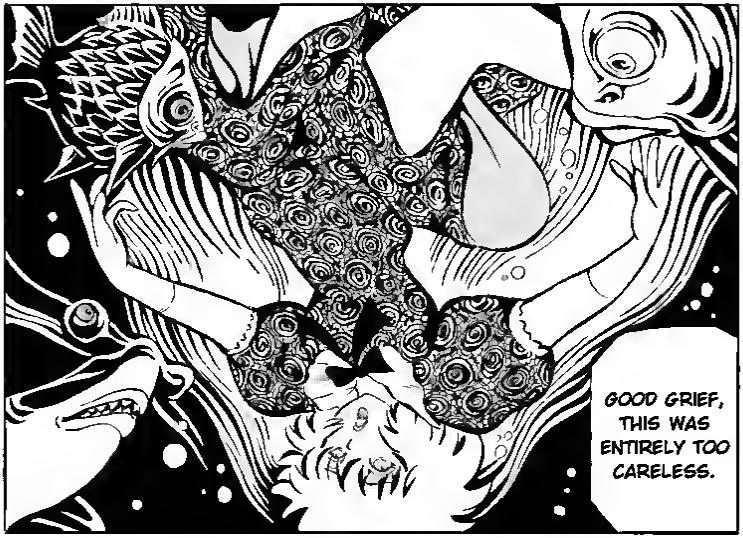

MY YELLOW FINGERS CARESSED THE TAWDRY, CHALKY WHITE SKIN OF FRANCOISE.

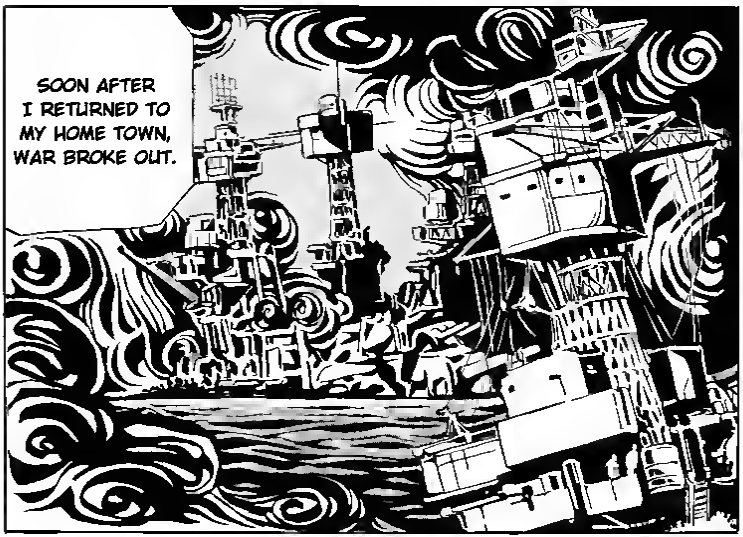

ON THAT DAY, FRANCOISE INFORMED ME OF OUR PREGNANCY.
AND SO SHE SAID, "I WANT OUR CHILD TO BE BORN IN YOUR COUNTRY."

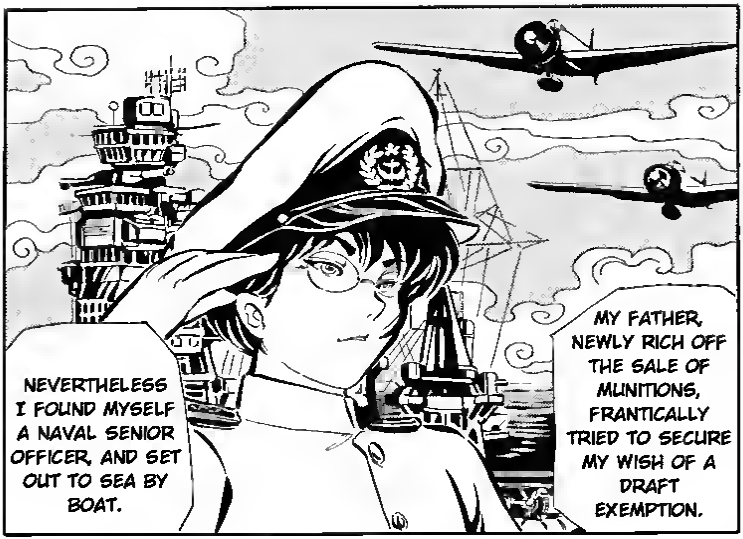

"I'M SO HAPPY, TAKAHIRO."
"NO PROBLEM. THEN LET'S RETURN TO MY HOME COUNTRY BY BOAT, AND THEN WE CAN BE MARRIED."

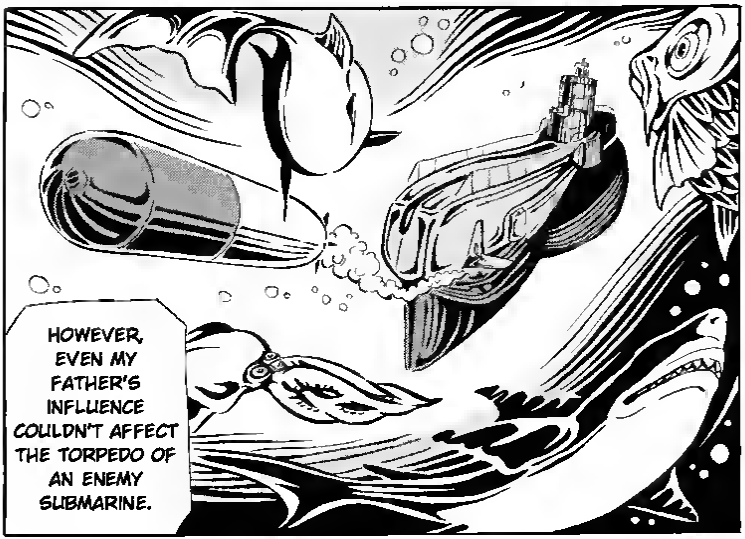

ABOARD SHIP, FRANCOISE WAS IN HIGH SPIRITS.

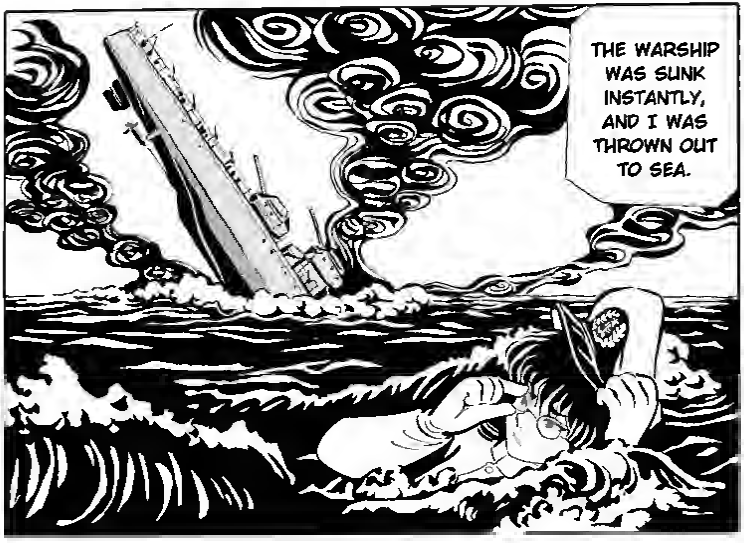
THE HIGH-SPIRITED FRANCOISE...
...WAS THRUST DOWN INTO THE SEA BY MY OWN TWO HANDS.


GOOD GRIEF, THIS WAS ENTIRELY TOO CARELESS.


SOON AFTER I RETURNED TO MY HOME TOWN, WAR BROKE OUT.


MY FATHER, NEWLY RICH OFF THE SALE OF MUNITIONS, FRANTICALLY TRIED TO SECURE MY WISH OF A DRAFT EXEMPTION.
NEVERTHELESS I FOUND MYSELF A NAVAL SENIOR OFFICER, AND SET OUT TO SEA BY BOAT.

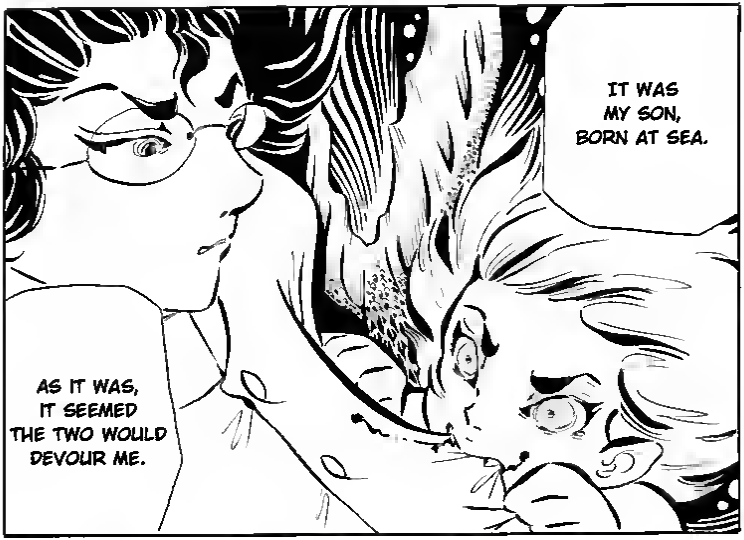

HOWEVER, EVEN MY FATHER'S INFLUENCE COULDN'T AFFECT THE TORPEDO OF AN ENEMY SUBMARINE.


THE WARSHIP WAS SUNK INSTANTLY, AND I WAS THROWN OUT TO SEA.

"I'VE BEEN WAITING, TAKAHIRO."

AH!!
FRANCOISE!

HAVE YOU ALWAYS BEEN DOWN HERE?
HAVE YOU BEEN DOWN HERE WAITING FOR ME?
A SHARP PAIN RAN THROUGH MY CHEST.
A CHILD HAD BITTEN ME.

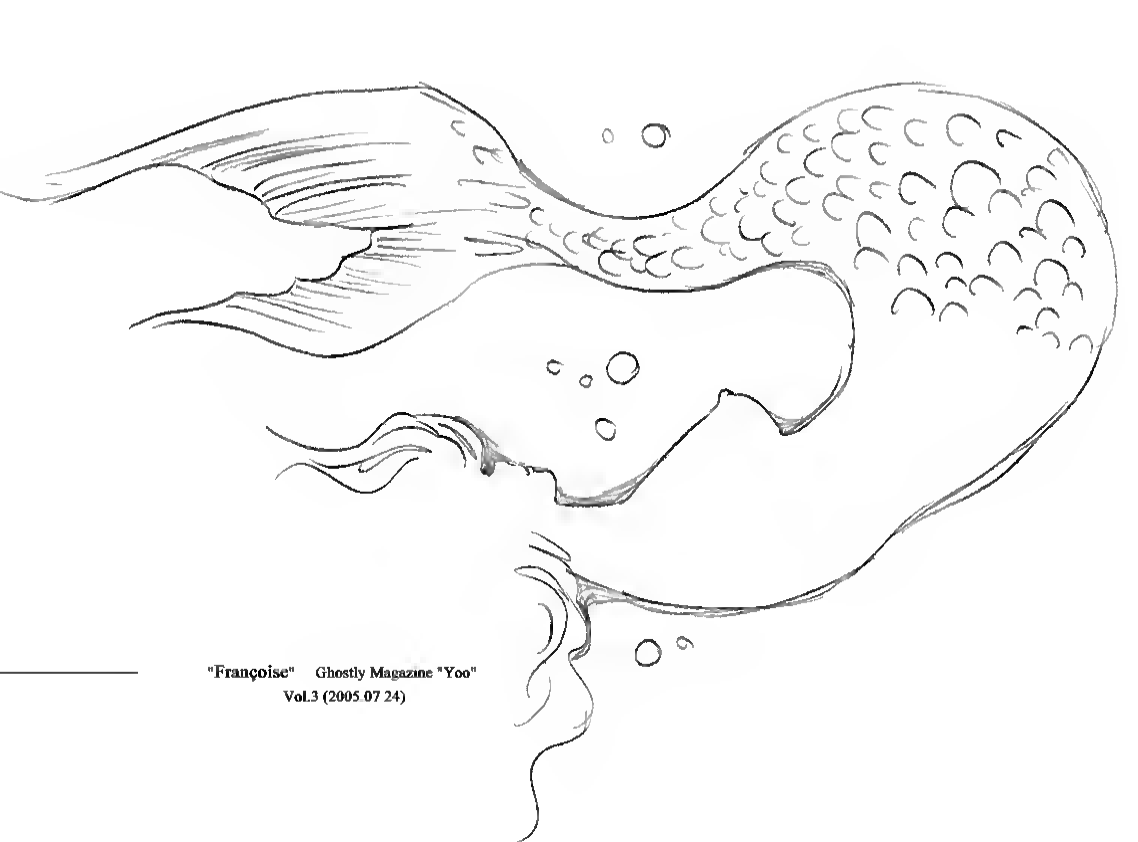

IT WAS MY SON, BORN AT SEA.
AS IT WAS, IT SEEMED THE TWO WOULD DEVOUR ME.

I GOUGED OUT THE CHILD'S EYES!

FRANCOISE LET OUT A RISING CRY AND GRASPED ME.
I STRANGLED THE WOMAN BY THE NECK.

THE CHILD, WITHOUT SEEING, BIT INTO MY LEG.
THE THREE OF US KILLED EACH OTHER UNDERWATER AS A FAMILY.
AH, I SEE. SO THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A FAMILY.
I LET OUT A LOUD LAUGH IN THE WATERS.

おわり



"Françoise" Ghostly Magazine "Yoo"
Vol.3 (2005.07.24)